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REACTION TO FORTHCOMING CASTRO-LOPEZ PORTILLO MEETING

PA152233 Paris AFP in Spanish 2020 GMT 15 May 79 PA

[Excerpts] Havana, 15 May (AFP)--Used to state secrets, the residents of Havana assimilated without comment today the surprising news that President Fidel Castro will leave for Mexico within 48 hours. While Cuban circles carried out their daily activities as if nothing had occurred, the embassies were busy making conjectures about the possible subjects Castro and President Jose Lopez Portillo will discuss. GRANMA, the only newspaper that circulates in Havana and the organ of the Communist Party, published on its front page the brief official communique announcing the trip. The communique does not disclose the agenda of the presidents' meeting.

His return, which Castro is now making for other reasons and objectives, will presumably be similarly surrounded by secrecy. If the tradition of recent years is followed, only at the last minute will one know if Castro will travel by ship or plane and by what route. Official circles who were consulted said they did not know details of the organization of the trip or of the program of activities. Diplomats and analysts can therefore only conjecture about the subjects to be discussed by Castro and Lopez Portillo. It is believed that the discussions will go beyond the framework of bilateral relations.

Without ruling out that they will discuss Cuban-U.S. relations, it is believed that it is very unlikely that they will be the main point of the talks in view of Castro's refusal to accept mediators in his relations with the United States. It is believed that Castro's interest will lie in consolidating with Lopez Portillo the image of "a responsible and mature Latin American policy" of coexistence without giving up principles and which will, at the same time, involve cordial relations and good commercial affairs. Another interest of Castro on Cozumel will apparently be to brief Lopez Portillo on details of the nonaligned summit scheduled to be held in Havana in September since Mexico participates in the nonaligned movement as an observer.

INTERCOSMOS WORKING GROUP MEETING ENDS IN HAVANA

FL152223 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2207 GMT 15 May 79 FL

[Excerpt] The working sessions of the fifth meeting of the socialist countries Intercosmos program's working group on the probing of earth from space concluded today. This international meeting was held in our capital with the participation of the delegations from Bulgaria, Hungary, GDR, Cuba, Poland, Romania, Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

The results of work done last year were examined at the meeting. This work was concerned with the study of the earth's natural resources, creation of necessary equipment for aerial and space surveys and the technical means to process the obtained information on earth. Work plans for next year and the 1981-85 period also were drafted taking into account scientific and economic interests of the participating countries. Since 1975 when the working group for the probing of earth from space was established, our country has been participating actively in the research work which the socialist nations are doing in this field.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA DEPUTY PREMIER DISCUSSES RELATIONS

FL142006 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1938 GMT 14 May 79 FL

[Excerpts] Matej Lucan, member of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and deputy premier of the government of the socialist republic of the fraternal country, at noon today held a press conference at the Culture Ministry in Havana.

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During his news conference at the culture Ministry, the Czechoslovak deputy premier referred to the 1981-85 5-year plan of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. In this regard, he said he expected that agreements and protocols during that 5-year period will strengthen cultural ties between Cuba and his country even more, in keeping with two socialist countries that maintain very close ties.

Visit to Union Offices

FL160039 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 79 FL

[Text] The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic delegation that is in Havana on the occasion of the days of culture of the fraternal country in Cuba this afternoon visited the offices of the National Cultural Workers Union at the Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC. Jacinto Viamontes, secretary general of that union, welcomed the distinguished visitors and briefed them on the work undertaken by the union. Matej Lucan, chief of the Czechoslovak delegation and member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee, then spoke stressing the experiences they have gained in Cuba. He said their visit has given them the opportunity to know our country better.

MEETING WITH YUGOSLAV, CZECHOSLOVAK ENVOYS

FL152157 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 15 May 79 FL

[Text] Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the Council of Ministers, has received Zivouin Jazic, ambassador of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and dealt with the development of bilateral relations between the two countries. They also discussed foreign policy matters, especially concerning the sixth summit conference of the nonaligned countries movement.

Dorticos Torrado also received Milos Vojta, ambassador of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. The meeting with the Czechoslovak ambassador was conducted in a fraternal atmosphere in keeping with the level of relations between the two countries' parties and governments. They examined the satisfactory status of the existing multifarious bilateral relations. They also exchanged viewpoints on current international problems and development of the socialist countries and of the international communist movement.

RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES ITALIAN OFFICIAL

FL15144 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1248 GMT 15 May 79 FL

[Text] Eng (Nicola Turarelli), management representative of the Italian Fiat group, has paid a courtesy call on Dr Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers. Mr (Tufarelli) is in our country to meet with Cuban organizations.

AFGHAN WOMEN'S DELEGATION TOURS SANTIAGO

FL141349 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1212 GMT 14 May 79 FL

[Text] (Delora Manhap), president of the Women's Organization of the People's Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, and the delegation she heads have met in Santiago de Cuba with members of the Federation of Cuban Woman--FMC--provincial leadership. At the meeting Isabel Jomarron, secretary general of the Santiago de Cuba [Province] FMC, explained the FMC's structure and operations and pointed out the important contributions made by Cuban women to the economic development of the country.